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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

11 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

12 FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

13 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

14 Plaintiff,

15 v.

16 ERICK OVED ESTRADA, ET AL.,

17 **ERICK OVED ESTRADA (#1),**

18 **ARIAN ALANI (#2),**

19 **GILBERTO MARQUEZ (#4),**

20 **CASEYA CHANEL BROWN (#5), and**

21 **ZOILA MICHELLE MARQUEZ (#6),**

22 Defendants.  
23

No. CR 23-564-MWF-1,2,4,5,6

PROTECTIVE ORDER REGARDING  
DISCOVERY CONTAINING PERSONAL  
IDENTIFYING INFORMATION, MEDICAL  
INFORMATION, PRIVACY ACT  
INFORMATION, AND CONFIDENTIAL  
WITNESS INFORMATION

24 The Court has read and considered the parties' Stipulation for  
25 a Protective Order Regarding Discovery Containing Personal  
26 Identifying Information, Medical Information, and Confidential  
27 Witness Information, filed by the government and defendants Erick  
28 Oved Estrada (#1) ("E. ESTRADA"), Arian Alani (#2) ("ALANI"),

1 Gilberto Marquez (#4) ("MARQUEZ"), Caseya Chanel Brown (#5)  
2 ("BROWN"), and Zoila Michelle Estrada (#6) ("Z. ESTRADA"),  
3 (collectively, "defendants"), by and through their respective  
4 counsel of record, Andy Beltran, Deputy Federal Public Defender  
5 Shannon M. Coit, Ambrosio E. Rodriguez, Robert M. Helfend, and  
6 Carlos Juarez, (collectively, the "parties"), in this matter on  
7 December 27, 2023, which this Court incorporates by reference into  
8 this order, and FOR GOOD CAUSE SHOWN the Court hereby FINDS AND  
9 ORDERS as follows:

10 1. The government's discovery in this case relates to  
11 defendants' alleged crimes, that is, violation(s) of 21 U.S.C.  
12 §§ 846, 841(a)(1) (Distribution of Controlled Substances and  
13 Conspiracy) and/or 18 U.S.C. § 1957 (Transactional Money  
14 Laundering).

15 2. A protective order for the discovery is necessary so that  
16 the government can produce to the defense materials regarding  
17 confidential witnesses who participated in the government's  
18 investigation and who may testify at trial. Because these materials  
19 could be used to identify the confidential witnesses, the Court  
20 finds that the unauthorized dissemination or distribution of the  
21 materials may expose him/her to potential safety risks.

22 3. A protective order for the discovery is also necessary so  
23 that the government can produce to the defense materials containing  
24 third parties' PII and medical information. The Court finds that  
25 disclosure of this information without limitation risks the privacy  
26 and security of the information's legitimate owners. The medical  
27 information at issue may also be subject to various federal laws  
28 protecting the privacy of medical records, including provisions of

1 the Privacy Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552a; provisions of 45 C.F.R.  
2 §§ 164.102-164.534; and/or provisions of 42 U.S.C. § 1306. Because  
3 the government has an ongoing obligation to protect third parties'  
4 PII and medical information, the government cannot produce to  
5 defendants an unredacted set of discovery containing this  
6 information without this Court entering the Protective Order.  
7 Moreover, PII and medical information make up a significant part of  
8 the discovery in this case and such information itself, in many  
9 instances, has evidentiary value. If the government were to attempt  
10 to redact all this information in strict compliance with Federal  
11 Rule of Criminal Procedure 49.1, the Central District of  
12 California's Local Rules regarding redaction, and the Privacy Policy  
13 of the United States Judicial Conference, the defense would receive  
14 a set of discovery that would be highly confusing and difficult to  
15 understand, and it would be challenging for defense counsel to  
16 adequately evaluate the case, provide advice to their respective  
17 defendants, or prepare for trial.

18 4. An order is also necessary because the government intends  
19 to produce to the defense materials that may contain information  
20 within the scope of the Privacy Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552a ("Privacy Act  
21 Information"). The Court finds that, to the extent that these  
22 materials contain Privacy Act information, disclosure is authorized  
23 pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552a(b)(11).

24 5. The purpose of this Protective Order is therefore to  
25 (a) allow the government to comply with its discovery obligations  
26 while protecting this sensitive information from unauthorized  
27 dissemination, and (b) provide the defense with sufficient  
28 information to adequately represent defendants.

1           6.     Accordingly, the discovery that the government will  
2 provide to defense counsel in the above-captioned case will be  
3 subject to this Protective Order, as follows:

4           a.     As used herein, "CI Materials" includes any  
5 information relating to a confidential witness's prior history of  
6 cooperation with law enforcement, prior criminal history,  
7 statements, or any other information that could be used to identify  
8 a confidential informant or cooperating witness, such as a name,  
9 image, address, date of birth, or unique personal identification  
10 number, such as a Social Security number, driver's license number,  
11 account number, or telephone number.

12           b.     As used herein, "PII Materials" includes any  
13 information that can be used to identify a person, including a name,  
14 address, date of birth, Social Security number, driver's license  
15 number, telephone number, account number, email address, or personal  
16 identification number.

17           c.     "Medical Materials" includes any individually  
18 identifiable health information that is connected to a patient's  
19 name, address, or other identifying number, such as a Social  
20 Security number or Medicare/Medi-Cal number.

21           d.     "Confidential Information" refers to any document or  
22 information containing CI Materials, PII Materials, or Medical  
23 Materials that the government produces to the defense pursuant to  
24 this Protective Order and any copies thereof.

25           e.     A "Defense Team" includes (1) a defendant's counsel  
26 of record ("defense counsel"); (2) other attorneys at defense  
27 counsel's law firm who may be consulted regarding case strategy in  
28 this case; (3) defense investigators who are assisting defense

1 counsel with this case; (4) retained experts or potential experts;  
2 and (5) paralegals, legal assistants, and other support staff to  
3 defense counsel who are providing assistance on this case. A  
4 Defense Team does not include its defendant, the defendant's family  
5 members, or any other associates of the defendant.

6 f. The government is authorized to provide defense  
7 counsel with Confidential Information marked with the following  
8 legend: "CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION -- CONTENTS SUBJECT TO PROTECTIVE  
9 ORDER." The government may put that legend on the digital medium  
10 (such as DVD or hard drive) or simply label a digital folder on the  
11 digital medium to cover the content of that digital folder. The  
12 government may also redact any PII contained in the production of  
13 Confidential Information.

14 g. If a defendant objects to a designation that material  
15 contains Confidential Information, the parties shall meet and  
16 confer. If the parties cannot reach an agreement regarding the  
17 defendant's objection, the defendant may apply to this Court to have  
18 the designation removed.

19 h. A defendant and his or her Defense Team shall use the  
20 Confidential Information solely to prepare for any pretrial motions,  
21 plea negotiations, trial, and sentencing hearing in this case, as  
22 well as any appellate and post-conviction proceedings.

23 i. The Defense Team shall not permit anyone other than  
24 the Defense Team to have possession of Confidential Information,  
25 including its defendant, while outside the presence of the Defense  
26 Team.

27 j. Notwithstanding the above, a defendant may see and  
28 review CI Materials only in the presence of his or her defense

1 counsel, and defense counsel shall ensure that his or her defendant  
2 is never left alone with any CI Materials. At the conclusion of any  
3 meeting with a defendant at which the defendant is permitted to view  
4 CI Materials, the defendant must return any CI Materials to defense  
5 counsel, who shall take all such materials with counsel. A  
6 defendant may not take any CI Materials out of the room in which the  
7 defendant is meeting with defense counsel. At no time, under no  
8 circumstance, will any Confidential Information be left in the  
9 possession, custody, or control of a defendant, regardless of the  
10 defendant's custody status.

11 k. If a defense counsel wishes to enable his or her  
12 defendant to review CI Materials in the presence of any person on  
13 the Defense Team other than the defense counsel, the defense counsel  
14 shall submit a letter to government counsel of record (currently,  
15 Assistant United States Attorney MiRi Song) identifying that person  
16 (the "designated person"), and shall submit a copy of the protective  
17 order stipulation that has been signed by that designated person.  
18 Upon receipt of those materials, if the government, in its sole  
19 discretion, finds the designated person acceptable, prior to the  
20 designated person reviewing any CI Materials with defendant,  
21 government counsel of record will confirm in writing that the  
22 defendant is additionally allowed to review CI Materials in the  
23 presence of the designated person.

24 l. A defendant may review PII Materials and Medical  
25 Materials only in the presence of a member of the Defense Team, who  
26 shall ensure that the defendant is never left alone with any PII  
27 Materials or Medical Materials. At the conclusion of any meeting  
28 with a defendant at which the defendant is permitted to view PII

1 Materials or Medical Materials, the defendant must return any PII  
2 Materials or Medical Materials to the Defense Team, and the member  
3 of the Defense Team present shall take all such materials with him  
4 or her. A defendant may not take any PII Materials or Medical  
5 Materials out of the room in which the defendant is meeting with his  
6 or her Defense Team.

7 m. A defendant may see and review Confidential  
8 Information as permitted by this Protective Order, but the defendant  
9 may not copy, keep, maintain, or otherwise possess any Confidential  
10 Information in this case at any time. A defendant also may not  
11 write down or memorialize any data or information contained in the  
12 Confidential Information.

13 n. A Defense Team may review Confidential Information  
14 with a witness or potential witness in this case, including its  
15 defendant. A defense counsel must be present whenever any CI  
16 Materials are being shown to a witness or potential witness. A  
17 member of a Defense Team must be present if PII Materials or Medical  
18 Materials are being shown to a witness or potential witness. Before  
19 being shown any portion of Confidential Information, however, any  
20 witness or potential witness must be informed of, and agree in  
21 writing to be bound by, the requirements of the Protective Order.  
22 No member of the Defense Team shall permit a witness or potential  
23 witness to retain Confidential Information or any notes generated  
24 from Confidential Information.

25 o. A Defense Team shall maintain Confidential  
26 Information safely and securely, and shall exercise reasonable care  
27 in ensuring the confidentiality of those materials by (1) not  
28 permitting anyone other than members of the Defense Team, its

1 defendant, witnesses, and potential witnesses, as restricted above,  
2 to see Confidential Information; (2) not divulging to anyone other  
3 than members of the Defense Team, defendant, witnesses, and  
4 potential witnesses, the contents of Confidential Information; and  
5 (3) not permitting Confidential Information to be outside the  
6 Defense Team's offices, homes, vehicles, or personal presence. CI  
7 Materials shall not be left unattended in any vehicle.

8 p. To the extent that a defendant, his or her Defense  
9 Team, witnesses, or potential witnesses create notes that contain,  
10 in whole or in part, Confidential Information, or to the extent that  
11 copies are made for authorized use by members of the Defense Team,  
12 such notes, copies, or reproductions become Confidential Information  
13 subject to the Protective Order and must be handled in accordance  
14 with the terms of the Protective Order.

15 q. A Defense Team shall use Confidential Information  
16 only for the litigation of this matter and for no other purpose.  
17 Litigation of this matter includes any appeal filed by a defendant  
18 and any motion filed by the defendant pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2255.  
19 In the event that a party needs to file Confidential Information  
20 with the Court or divulge the contents of Confidential Information  
21 in court filings, the filing should be made under seal. If the  
22 Court rejects the request to file such information under seal, the  
23 party seeking to file such information publicly shall provide  
24 advance written notice to the other party to afford such party an  
25 opportunity to object or otherwise respond to such intention. If  
26 the other party does not object to the proposed filing, the party  
27 seeking to file such information shall redact any CI Materials, PII  
28 Materials, or Medical Materials and make all reasonable attempts to



1 limit the divulging of CI Materials, PII Materials, or Medical  
2 Materials.

3           r. Any Confidential Information inadvertently produced  
4 in the course of discovery prior to entry of the Protective Order  
5 shall be subject to the terms of this Protective Order. If  
6 Confidential Information was inadvertently produced prior to entry  
7 of the Protective Order without being marked "CONFIDENTIAL  
8 INFORMATION -- CONTENTS SUBJECT TO PROTECTIVE ORDER," the government  
9 shall reproduce the material with the correct designation and notify  
10 defense counsel of the error. The Defense Team shall take immediate  
11 steps to destroy the unmarked material, including any copies.

12           s. If any Confidential Information contains both CI  
13 Materials and another category of Confidential Information, the  
14 information shall be handled in accordance with the CI Materials  
15 provisions of this Protective Order.

16           t. Confidential Information shall not be used by any  
17 member of the defense team, in any way, in any other matter, absent  
18 an order by this Court. All materials designated subject to the  
19 Protective Order maintained in the Defense Team's files shall remain  
20 subject to the Protective Order unless and until such order is  
21 modified by this Court. Within 30 days of the conclusion of  
22 appellate and post-conviction proceedings, defense counsel shall  
23 return CI Materials to the government or certify that such materials  
24 have been destroyed. Within 30 days of the conclusion of appellate  
25 and post-conviction proceedings, defense counsel shall return all  
26 PII Materials or Medical Materials, certify that such materials have  
27 been destroyed, or certify that such materials are being kept  
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1 pursuant to the California Business and Professions Code and the  
2 California Rules of Professional Conduct.

3           u. In the event that there is a substitution of counsel  
4 prior to when such documents must be returned, new defense counsel  
5 must be informed of, and agree in writing to be bound by, the  
6 requirements of the Protective Order before defense counsel  
7 transfers any Confidential Information to the new defense counsel.  
8 New defense counsel's written agreement to be bound by the terms of  
9 the Protective Order must be returned to the Assistant U.S. Attorney  
10 assigned to the case. New defense counsel then will become the  
11 Defense Team's custodian of materials designated subject to the  
12 Protective Order and shall then become responsible, upon the  
13 conclusion of appellate and post-conviction proceedings, for  
14 (1) returning to the government, certifying the destruction of, or  
15 retaining pursuant to the California Business and Professions Code  
16 and the California Rules of Professional Conduct all PII Materials  
17 or Medical Materials; and (2) returning to the government or  
18 certifying the destruction of all CI Materials.

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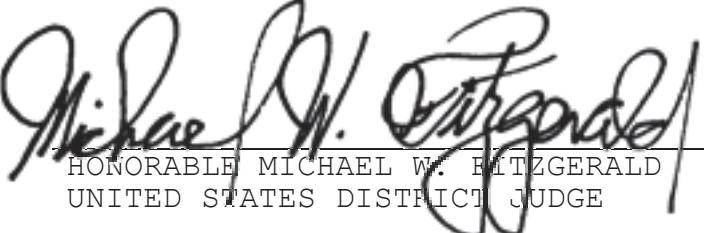
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1 v. Defense counsel shall advise their respective  
2 defendants and all members of their respective Defense Team of their  
3 obligations under the Protective Order and ensure their agreement to  
4 follow the Protective Order, prior to providing their respective  
5 defendant and members of the Defense Team with access to any  
6 materials subject to the Protective Order.

7 IT IS SO ORDERED.

8 December 28, 2023

9 DATE

  
HONORABLE MICHAEL W. FITZGERALD  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

10  
11 Presented by:

12 /s/ MiRi Song

13 MIRI SONG

14 Assistant United States Attorney  
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